



**2013 Elder Abuse Task Force
Progress Report
(Senate File 446, Section 50)**

**Iowa Department on Aging
October 31, 2013**

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SF446 Elder Abuse Task Force Members

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Department of Public Health Abuse Education Review Panel	Diana Nicholls Blomme , Executive Officer
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Department of Veterans Affairs	Robert King , Executive Director
Department on Aging	Linda Hildreth , Elder Abuse Program Director
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Iowa Courts	Craig Block , Associate Probate Judge
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Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health & Disability Services	Laura Larkin , Program Planner III
National Health Law & Policy Resource Center University of Iowa	Josy Gittler , Director
Older Iowan's Legislature	Bob Welsh , Consumer Representative
Polk County Attorney's Office	Celene Gogerty , Assistant Polk County Attorney
University of Iowa School of Social Work	Sara Sanders , Professor

MANDATE

During its 2013 session, Iowa's 85th General Assembly passed Senate File 446 which was signed into law by Governor Branstad. Section 50 of Senate File 446 mandated the Department on Aging to continue a task force on elder abuse prevention and intervention and to continue the work of the 2012 Elder Abuse Task Force established through House File 2387. The report may be accessed at www.iowaaging.gov/hf2387-iowa-elder-abuse-report-2012. The mandates include the review of the 2012 Task Force Report, developing an implementation plan for the recommendations, and making any additional recommendations as necessary.

The implementation plan and additional recommendations shall address all of the following:

- a. The design of the comprehensive approach to elder abuse prevention and intervention in the state utilizing the prevention of elder abuse program pursuant to section 231.56A and the office of substitute decision maker pursuant to chapter 231E.

The design shall also address all of the following:

- (1) Harmonization of the approach design with the existing dependent adult abuse system pursuant to chapter 235B, including but not limited to standardized training, collaboration between the elder abuse approach and the department of human services when a report of dependent adult abuse involves an older individual, and the membership of multidisciplinary teams.
 - (2) Incorporation of the approach design into other existing and developing components of the system including the area agencies on aging, the mental health and disability services regions, local public health departments, the local offices of the department on human services, the courts, and other appropriate entities, to most effectively and efficiently address the needs of older individuals.
- b. The definition of elder abuse to be used in the approach to elder abuse. The task force shall address continued use of the definition of "elder abuse" as specified under the federal Older Americans Act and utilized by the prevention of elder abuse program under section 231.56A, or shall provide a specific alternative definition.
 - c. The designation of a single point of contact to report elder abuse. The task force shall specifically address utilizing the aging and disability resource center network as the single point of contact.
 - d. The means of addressing financial exploitation of older individuals, including those relating to powers of attorney and conservatorships as described in the 2012 task force report.
 - e. Promotion of public awareness of elder abuse and the services and support available to older individuals at risk of or experiencing elder abuse.
 - f. Any specific changes in statute and rules necessary to achieve the recommendations of the task force.

LEAN

Prior and subsequent to the passage of SF446, Director Harvey, Department on Aging, had a variety of conversations with key state department directors. From these conversations, it was determined that it would be beneficial in moving the concept of an elder abuse system forward by having the Departments of Human Services, Inspections and Appeals, and the Attorney General's Office meet and outline current roles in the adult abuse/elder abuse system. An agreement was reached to engage in a LEAN Value Stream Mapping Process knowing the outcomes would be critical to the efforts of the 2013 Task Force (SF446) members. Information generated through this process was categorized "Homework" or "Recommendations to Task Force". (See Appendix A) "Homework" consists of items that team members will be researching and addressing over the next year. These items are areas that can be changed without legislative action or portions of the task can be completed prior to legislative changes. "Task Force Recommendations" are items that need deeper consideration and system planning because legislative changes would need to occur.

2013 Task Force Meetings & Work Groups

The Task Force met on September 16, October 2, and October 23. The Task Force was divided into three work groups: Centralization, Elder Abuse Law and Definition, and Office of Substitute Decision Maker / Referrals / Services. Each was provided with the 2012 Task Force Recommendations and the relevant portions of Senate File 446, Section 50. (See appendix B) Meeting summaries for the 2013 Task Force and work group may be viewed online at: www.iowaaging.gov/2013-elder-abuse-task-force.

Each work group developed a list of issues for consideration in line with the recommendations of the 2012 Task Force Report. Each work group's recommendations and issues for further discussions were presented at the October 23 Task Force meeting and are as follows:

2012 Recommendation 1 - Elder Abuse Definition and Law. Develop an elder abuse law which focuses on the unique needs of older Iowans and creates definitions which protect older Iowans who do not meet the dependent adult abuse criteria.

The 2013 Task Force is in concurrence that an elder abuse law to address elder abuse is needed and has identified and is considering the following alternatives:

Elder Abuse Definition

- Include a person 60+ as an alternate definition of a "dependent adult" without regard to dependency or vulnerability;
- Expand definitions of a "dependent adult" to include other situations where adult may be vulnerable; or
- Expand the definition of "dependent adult" to include the abuse of any adult over the age of ___, regardless of dependency or vulnerability.

- The Task Force agrees it is important that any definition for elder abuse balance the need for protection with a respect for personal autonomy, individual civil rights and dignity. Definitions utilized by other states can be reviewed by visiting [http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/aging/about/pdfs/Statutory Provisions for Threshold Eligibility Criteria for APS.authcheckdam.pdf](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/aging/about/pdfs/Statutory_Provisions_for_Threshold_Eligibility_Criteria_for_APS.authcheckdam.pdf).

Elder Abuse Law

- Change 235B to eliminate a caretaker as a prerequisite for physical abuse, sexual abuse, and financial exploitation.
- Move 235B.20 (criminal penalties); amend, move or remove 726.7 (wanton neglect of a resident of a health care facility); amend, move or remove 726.8 (wanton neglect or nonsupport of a dependent adult); amend, move or remove 726.3 (neglect or abandonment of a dependent person); move 235B.12 (failure to report; should also include 235E.2(9)) to new criminal chapter that deals exclusively with adult abuse. Issue: some of these code sections are somewhat duplicative and range of level of offenses seem almost random.
- Amend 235E.2(6) to require DIA to inform both the appropriate county attorneys and the AG’s office of any reports of dependent adult abuse.
- Consider amending 235B.2(5) definition of “abuse” to include emotional/psychological abuse. Review 42 USC 3002 or 235E for guidance.
- Create legislation similar to Iowa Code chapter 236 (domestic violence) which allows victims of elder abuse and/or family members or interested parties to obtain protective orders outside of an abuse or criminal case. (similar to second bullet under Recommendation 2 – Safeguards from Financial Exploitation)

2012 Recommendation 2 - Safeguards from Financial Exploitation. Implement safeguards as outlined in the full report to ensure financial security against exploitation for older Iowans. Current financial power of attorney and conservatorship laws do not adequately protect older Iowans and their assets from perpetrators or from persons in a position of trust.

The 2013 Task Force Reviewed and is Considering the Following:

- Broaden the definition of financial exploitation for the purpose of reporting abuse by mandatory and permissive reporters in long term care facilities and assisted living programs.
- Create an Elder Abuse petition for relief to obtain a protective order (like domestic abuse civil orders for protection) and/or authorize court issuance of protective / restraining orders in cases of elder financial exploitation and the freezing of assets in cases of elder financial exploitation. (similar to last bullet under Recommendation 1 – Elder Abuse Definition 7 Law)
- Authorize recovery of actual damages, punitive damages, attorney’s fees and court costs in a civil action for financial exploitation and that allows a cause of action to survive the death of the victim/plaintiff.
- Consider amending Iowa Code Section 633.535 to deny an inheritance to financial exploiters.

- Amend Iowa Code Section 714.1 (theft) to include new offense of financial exploitation of a senior or vulnerable adult.
- Amend Iowa Code Section 714.2 (degrees of theft) to impose enhanced penalties to financial exploitation of a senior.
- Any definition of “financial exploitation” should not have the requirement that the perpetrator must have acted for their own profit.
- Consider adding definitions to financial exploitation for “implied consent”, “undue influence” and “duress”.
- Enact legislation reducing the barriers to the prosecution of elder financial exploitation, including an extended statute of limitations for financial exploitation, etc.
- Amend Chapter 235B to provide that mandatory and permissive reporters shall make reports of suspected elder abuse/dependent adult abuse to law enforcement as well as DHS if they have reason to believe that immediate protection for the older person/dependent adult is advisable.
- Require financial institutions to serve as mandatory reporters once an elder abuse system is in place.
- Define “financial institution” for 235B.

2012 Recommendation 3 - Elder Abuse Intervention System. Implement a system focused on prevention, intervention, detection, and provision of services to maintain the health, welfare, safety, and resources of the older Iowan. The recommended system to implement and fund statewide is based upon the Elder Abuse Initiative demonstration projects previously funded through the Senior Living Trust Funds and piloted in 22 counties.

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

- Establish a statewide elder abuse intervention system.
- Review and customize the language utilized with the EAI demonstration projects.
- Requires legislative creation of a crime of “elder abuse” or similar.

2012 Recommendation 4 - Allocation of Service Dollars. To fully implement an elder abuse intervention system, funding for services is needed to ensure protection and safety.

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

- Establish a fund for emergency services.
- Provide additional funding to the Area Agencies on Aging for the purpose of providing emergency services to older Iowans or dependent individuals in need.
- Create a surcharge on specified criminal prosecutions or a special fund which may be used to enhance funding.

2012 Recommendation 5 - Specialized Education and Training. Achieve consistency and effectiveness in addressing and preventing elder abuse through the development of a single training module to increase knowledge and distinguish between elder abuse and dependent adult abuse.

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

Administrative

- Review Department on Aging's Trainer's Guide for Mandatory Reporters of Dependent Adult Abuse developed by the Departments of Human Services, Inspections and Appeal, Public Health, and Aging.
- Review already approved curricula and conduct research to find current information including material on dementia, cognitive impairment, and diminished capacity.
- Explore and determine methods of delivering training to provide consistency and maintain integrity.

Legislative Changes Required

- Develop one standardized core curriculum for adult abuse and eliminate the combination mandatory reporter training for child and dependent adult abuse.
- Develop discipline specific tracks.
- Determine oversight for the curriculum.
- Require all trainers be certified and establish staffing core requirements.

LEAN Tasks

- Increase public awareness through outreach, training and education for professionals and the general public.
- Balance public awareness efforts with the capabilities of the current adult abuse system. Caution against raising awareness which results in increased calls to a very limited system to address the issues.
- Convene a financial institutions consultation committee to develop consistent protocols and training for financial institutions.

2012 Recommendation 6 - Laws Related to Powers of Attorney, Conservatorship Abuse, and Office of Substitute Decision Maker. Strengthen the laws pertaining to financial powers of attorney, and conservatorship. Power of attorney documents and conservatorships often serve as powerful tools for exploiters.

Laws Related to Powers of Attorney (POA) and Conservatorship Abuse

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

- Create a registry of power of attorney (POA) documents, including required registration of POA when the principal becomes incapacitated and appropriate be allocated.
- Support the adoption the Uniform Power of Attorney Act as modified by the Iowa State Bar Association and endorsed by the Iowa Trust Officers Association.
- Amend Iowa Code chapter 633 to require background checks for prospective conservators.

- Amend Iowa Code chapter 915 and 815.10 to allow a guardian ad litem to be appointed on behalf of a senior who is a prosecuting witness or victim of an indictable criminal offense to advocate on the senior’s behalf and appropriate resources allocated.
- Fund the second and third years of the Guardianship/Conservator Monitoring and Assistance Pilot Project.

The 2013 Task Force acknowledge that financial exploitation cannot be addressed simply with the above recommended POA changes. There are situations where financial exploitation occurs and a POA is not in place.

Office of Substitute Decision Maker

The 2013 Task Force Reviewed and is Considering the Following Alternatives:

- Implement 231E at full funding level.
- Phase-in implementation of 231E over a number of years through one of the following methods:
 - One SDM in each service and planning area with additional staff to be added as determined necessary; or
 - Limit services during initial phase-in and add services in each period
- State level centralization through one of the following methods:
 - Use the LTCO model with each SDM “housed” at the state office but serving different regions of the state; or
 - State SDM with utilization of contractors in different regions of the state.
- Relocate the SDM program to AG or Supreme Court using existing 231E or amended 231E.
- Eliminate 231E and subsidize the provision of last-resort SDM services.

2012 Recommendation 7 - Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT). Review the MDT process and evaluate to ensure teams meet and that collaboration occurs to better serve older lowans who are victims of or are vulnerable to elder abuse. Currently, MDT’s are allowed to exist under the Dependent Adult Abuse Law but are not statewide.

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

Administrative

- Conduct a review of existing MDTs to determine if there should be one in every county or a group of contiguous counties.
- Research the feasibility of establishing a state MDT to serve as a resource for the local MDTs, to address issues in counties not covered by an MDT and to receive and review reports from local MDTs.

Legislative Changes Required

- Expand 235B.1 MDT powers and functions to address abuse issues that cannot be effectively resolved by a single discipline. This includes identifying required participants, resolving complex cases, identifying systemic problems, expediting cases, aiding in the development of prosecutions, advocating for improved services or public policy, and

enhancing members' skills and knowledge. Other purposes include raising awareness about the problem among professionals and the community, providing support to workers, and contributing to the collected knowledge about abuse.

- Confidentiality statutes need to be addressed to allow state and local governmental entities (state departments, law enforcement, county attorneys, county mental health, MDTs, etc.) to collaborate and share essential confidential information that is necessary for each entity to provide intervention and protection. Include Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Centers as instrumentalities of the State. (same as second bullet under 2012 Recommendation – Multi-disciplinary Teams [MDTs])

2012 Recommendation 8 - Single Entry Point of Contact. Establish a single point of contact to discuss concerns of or report elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. The current system and laws for protecting older lowans are fragmented and do not meet older lowan's needs.

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

Administrative

- Research a single point of contact system including local information and assistance.
- Add single point of contact number to the DHS Notice that is sent out indicating if the report has been accepted or rejected.
- Take a structured look at a centralized intake system for adult protective services, including elder abuse, utilizing:
 - Results of LEAN Event – potentially additional LEAN events for process improvement evaluation;
 - Research; and
 - Focus Groups.

Legislative Changes Required

- Confidentiality statutes need to be addressed to allow state and local governmental entities (state departments, law enforcement, county attorneys, county mental health, MDTs, etc.) to collaborate and share essential confidential information that is necessary for each entity to provide intervention and protection. Include Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Centers as instrumentalities of the State. (similar to second bullet under 2012 Recommendation – Multi-disciplinary Teams [MDTs])
- Determine what information can be shared, for what purpose, and to whom
 - Referrals
 - Founded
 - Unfounded
 - Confirmed but not Registered
- Needs to be researched by key organizations that have statutes involved.

LEAN Tasks

- Explore mechanisms for the collection and analysis of data on adult abuse. Collecting data is vital for mid to long term ongoing success in combating the problem of adult abuse.

2012 Recommendation 9 - Safe Havens. Create specific locations to house a victim of elder abuse. A victim of elder abuse is generally removed from their home in an attempt to keep them safe from a perpetrator. If an older lowan needs a safe place to stay there are no specific locations that can meet the unique needs of an older person.

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

- Review and explore existing “Family Life Homes” program within the Department of Human Services and the Veteran’s Administration program to determine if the program is viable and can be better utilized or expanded upon to meet short or long-term housing needs.
- Consider the utilization of group-home settings or other licensed facilities for emergency-based residential needs whether through an expanded “Family Life Homes” program or other program.

2012 Recommendation 10 - Ongoing Collaboration. Continue the dialogue in an effort to protect older lowans. As the population of Iowa grows older, the work and issues surrounding elder abuse needs to continue through a task force which is geared to discussing the issues and researching best practices.

The 2013 Task Force Recommends:

- Explore adding language to 235B.1(4) to codify the Dependent Adult Protection Advisory Council to include elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Appendix

Appendix A

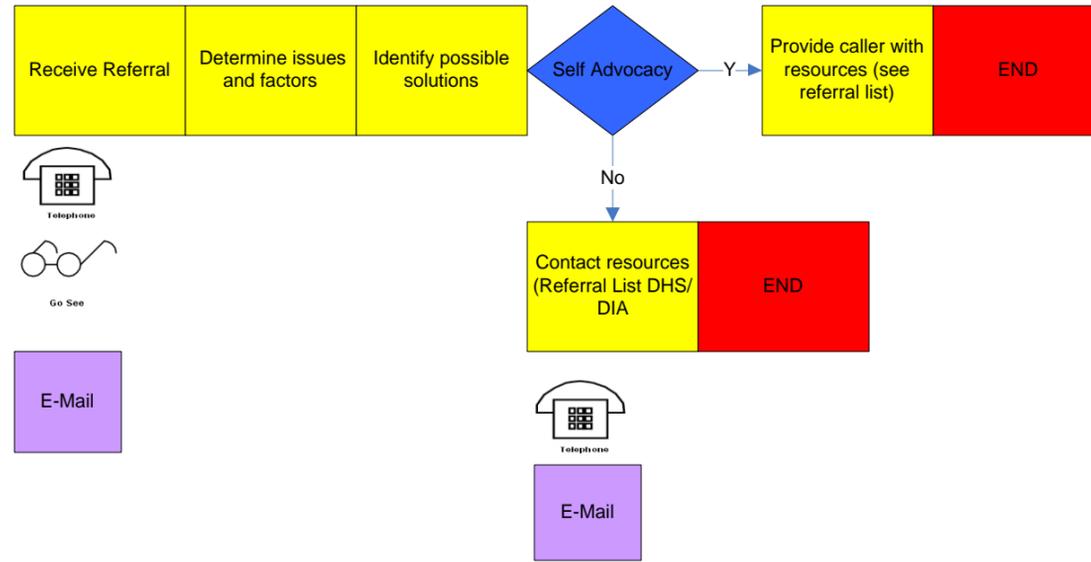
The LEAN process is a methodology recognized and utilized in Iowa State Government to streamline the workflow and find permanent solutions to chronic problems and is a five day intense event. The four department sponsored event occurred in August with the team comprised of representatives from the Departments of Human Services, Aging, Inspections and Appeals, Attorney General's Office, Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Office, Area Agencies on Aging, Polk County Attorney's Office and two consumers.

The purpose of the event, as defined by the team, was to map the current dependent adult and elder abuse processes for the four departments from the point contact is made about abuse to an agency to the point of resolution and/or services. The outcome is to identify opportunities for how the current system can better meet the needs of an elder abuse system. Below are the objectives of the LEAN Event:

1. Gain an understanding of each state department and other entities' roles and responsibilities in dependent adult and elder abuse.
2. Identify gaps between the current dependent adult and elder abuse system and the needs of an elder abuse system.
3. Identify improvements that impact the abuse system but could require existing resources that cross agencies.
4. Identify improvements that impact the abuse system, but could require code or law changes.
5. Develop collaboration across agencies in order to create efficiencies and effectiveness in the abuse system.
6. Develop recommendations and an action plan for improvement.

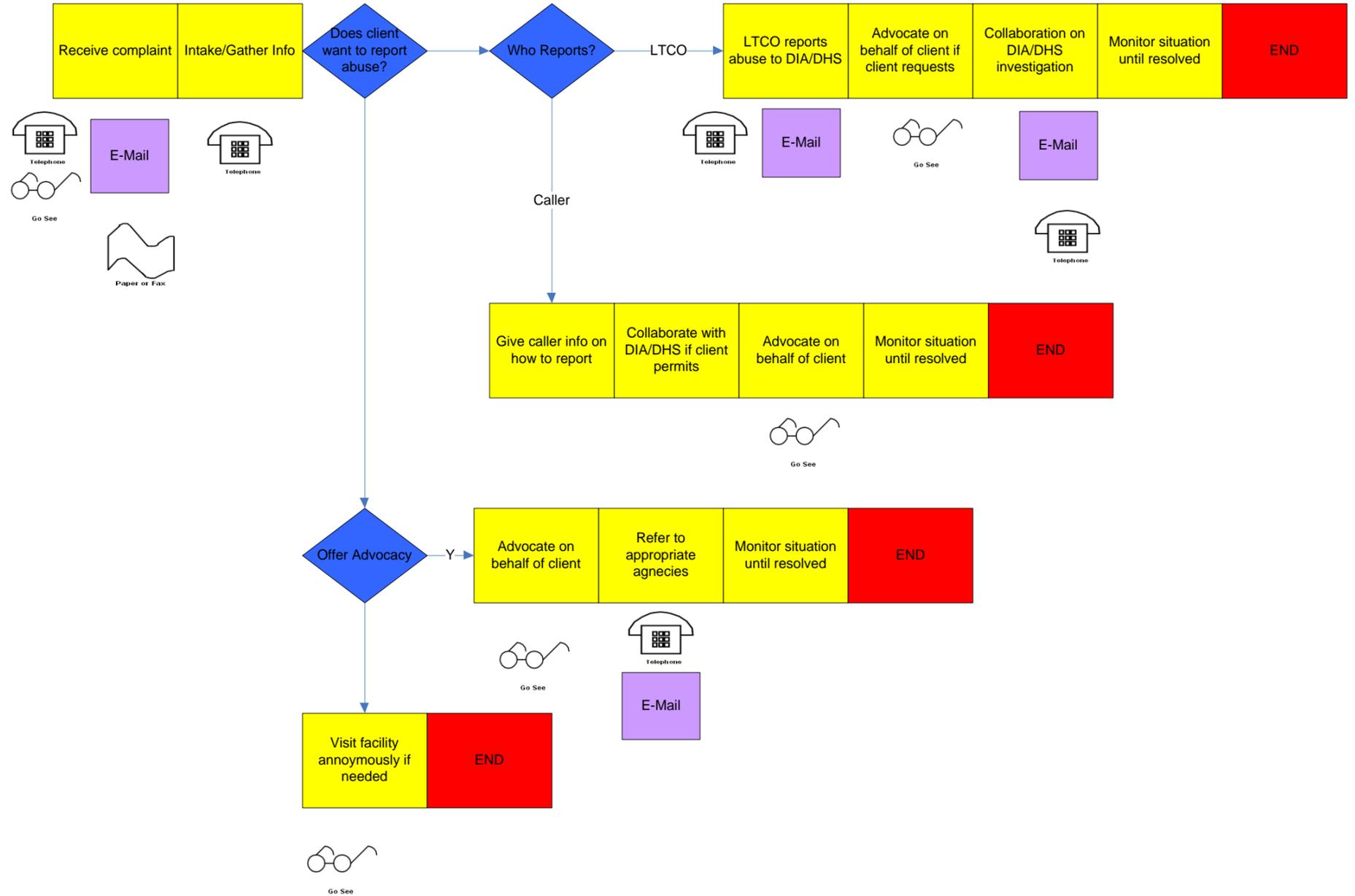
Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness

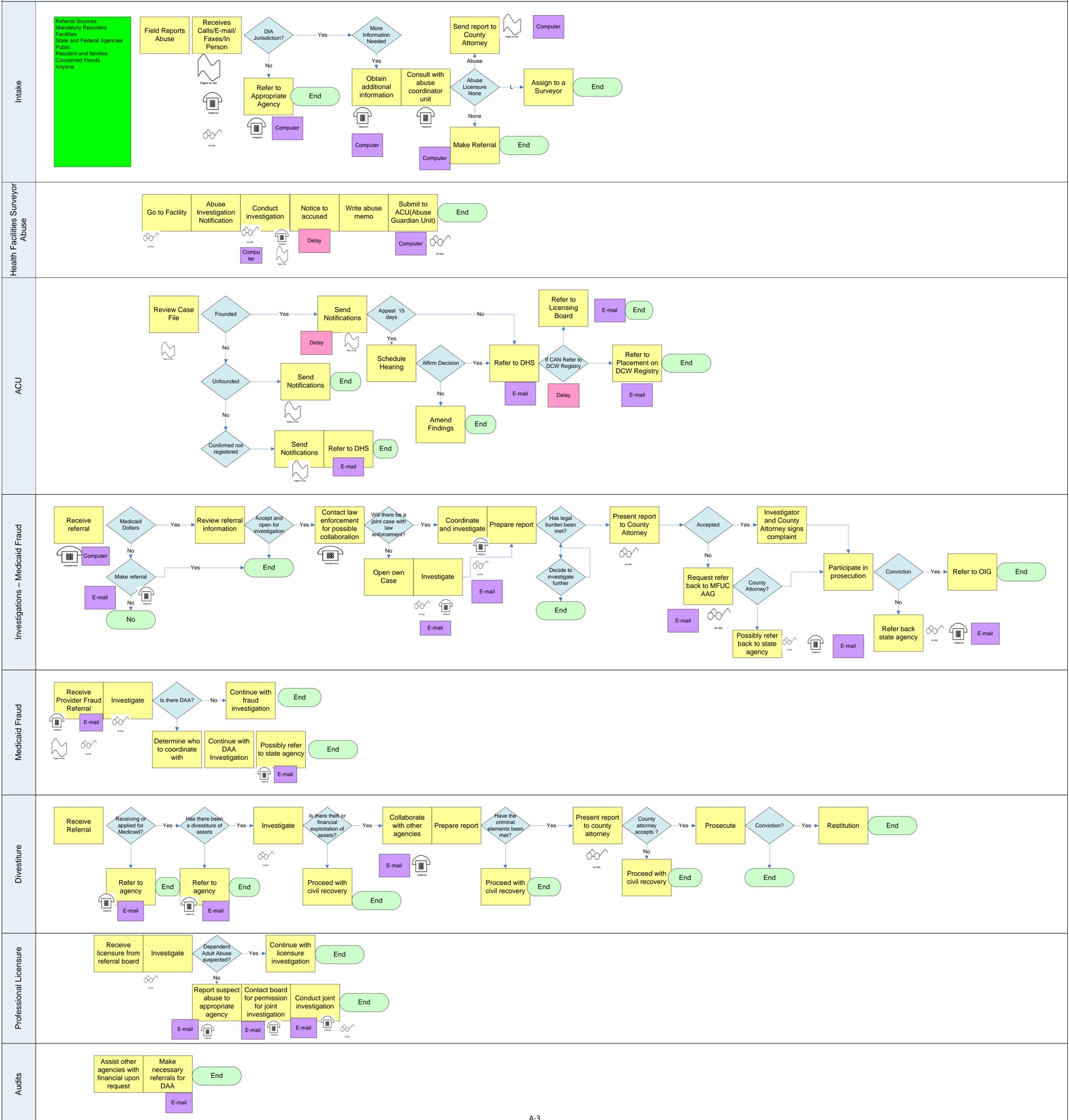
Referral Sources:
 General Public
 AAA
 LTCO and Insurance Dept
 AG
 Law Enforcement
 County Attorney
 Financial Institution
 Legal Hot Line for Older IA



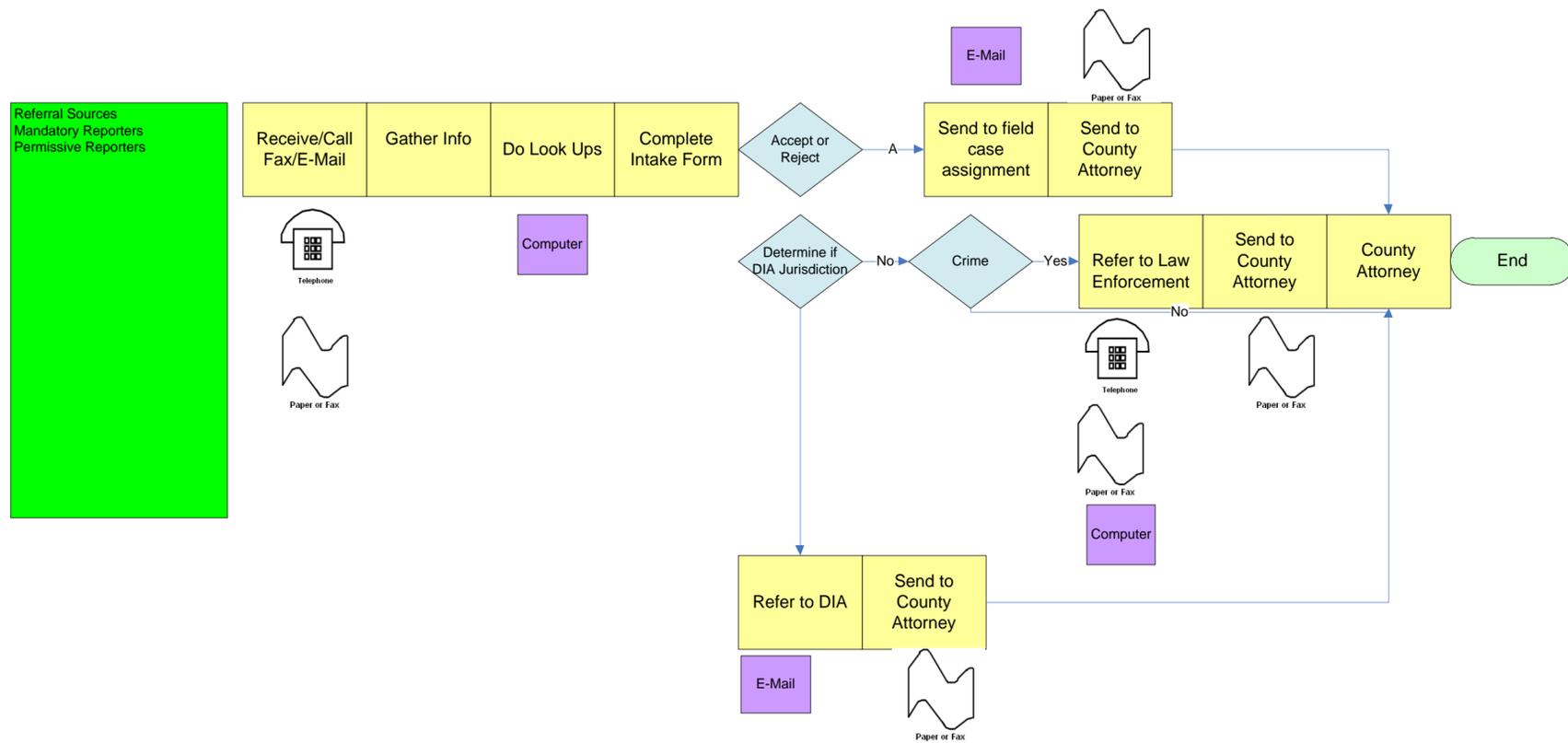
LTCO

Referral Sources:
 Resident Family Member/
 Loved One
 Facility
 DIA
 DHS

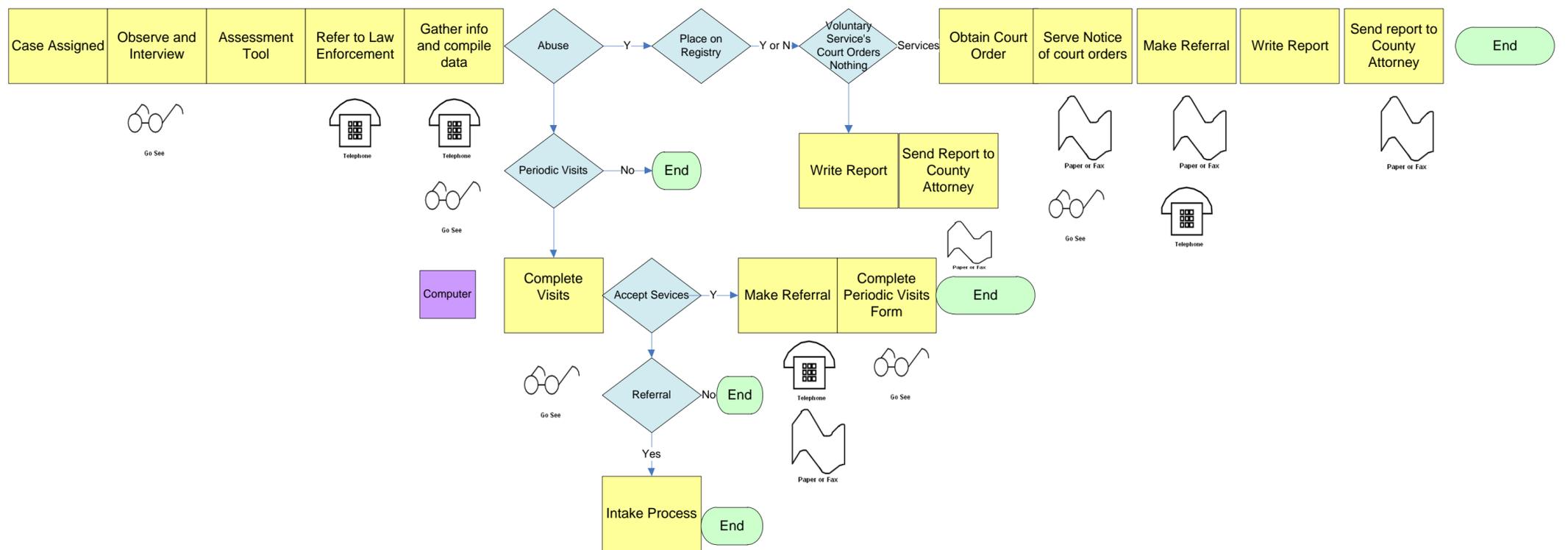




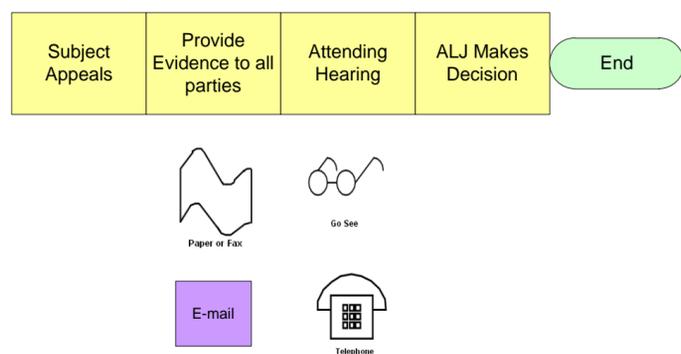
Intake



Assessment Investigation

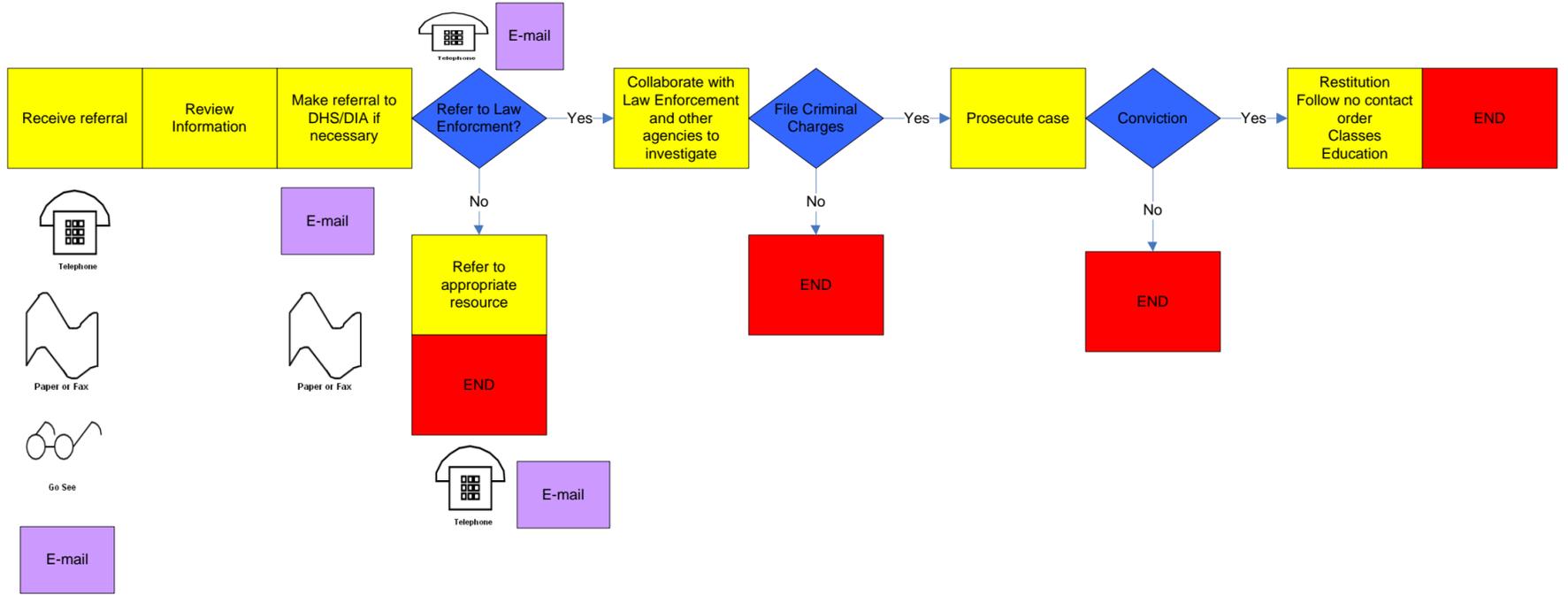


Appeals



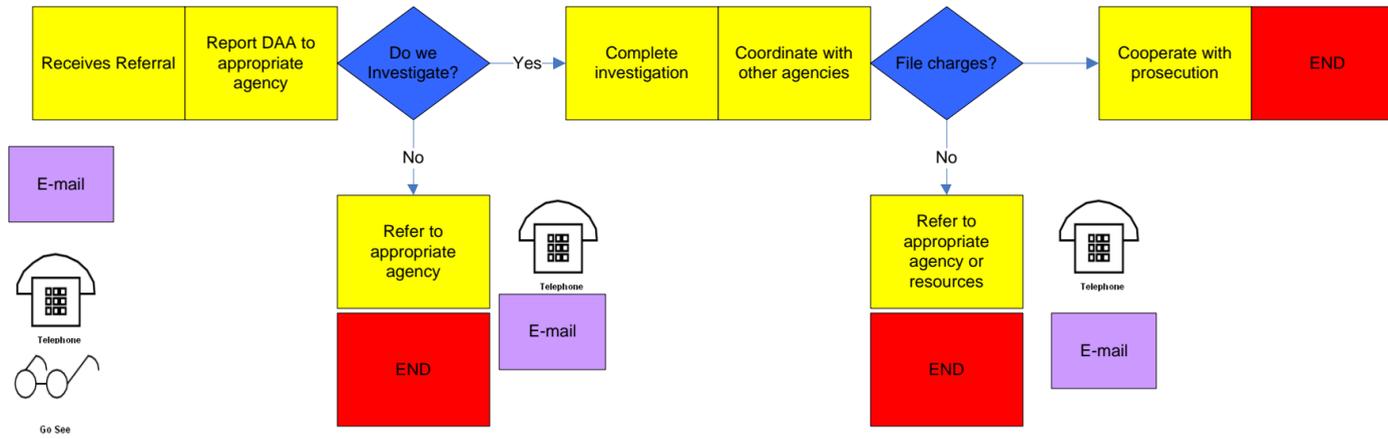
County Attorney

Referral Sources:
DHS
DIA
General Public
Law Enforcement
Financial Institutions
Courts
Attorney



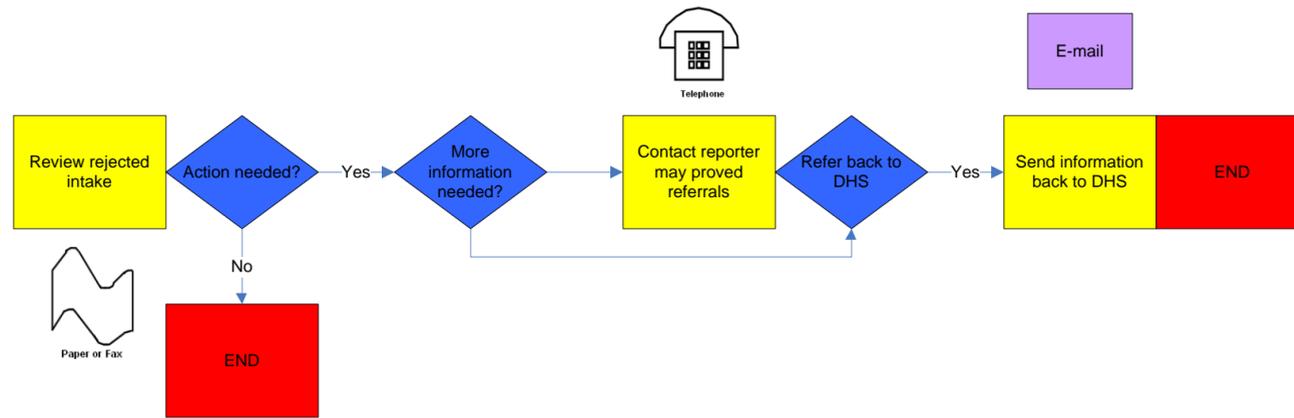
Law Enforcement

Referral Source: Anyone



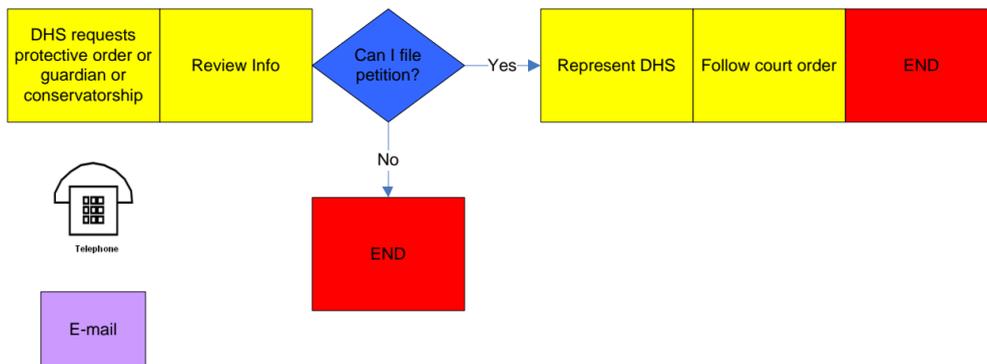
Rejected DHS

Referral Sources: DHS



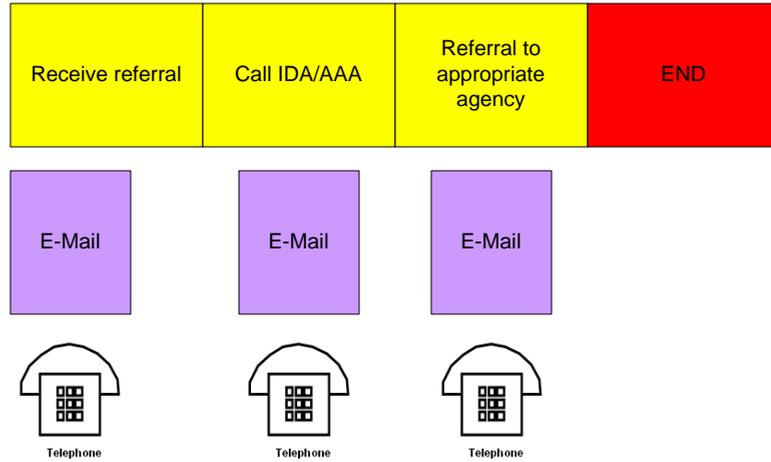
Protective Orders/ Guardianships/ Conservatorships

Referral Sources: DHS



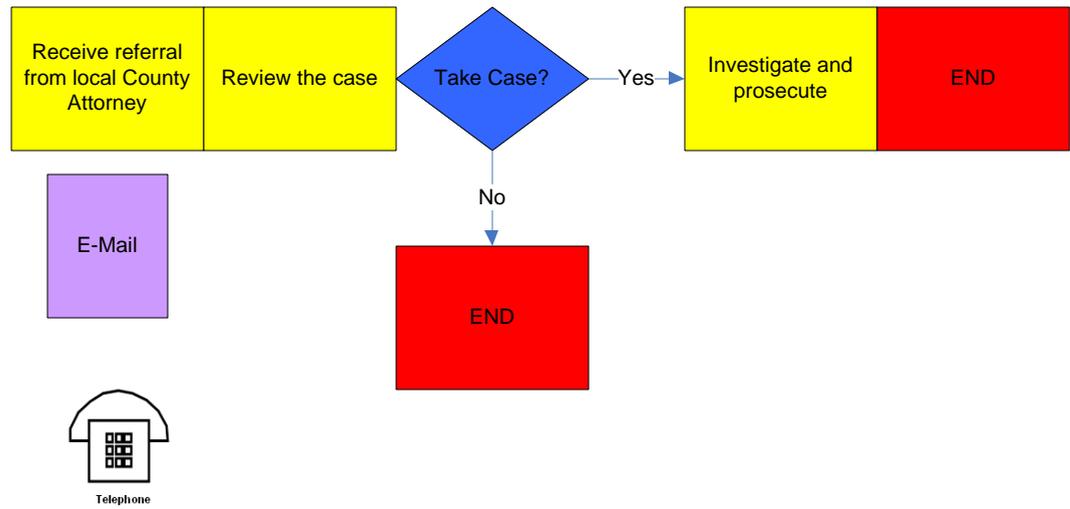
General

Referral Sources:
 General Public
 Providers
 AAA
 LTCO
 Insurance Department
 Law Enforcement
 County Attorney
 Financial Institution
 Legal Hot Line for Older Iowans



Financial Crimes Unit AP

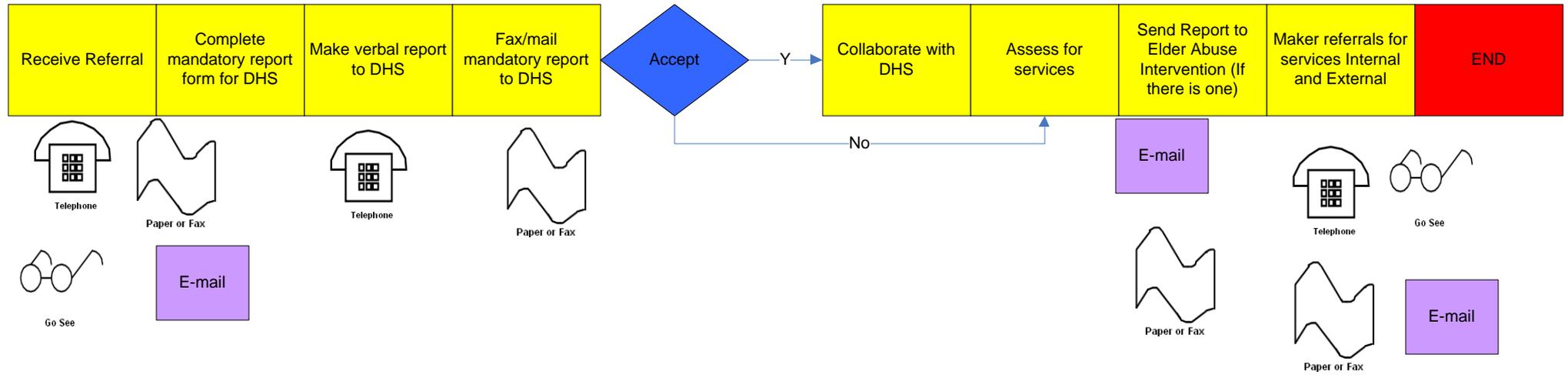
Referral Sources:
 General Public
 County Attorney
 Law Enforcement



AAA VSM Elder Abuse

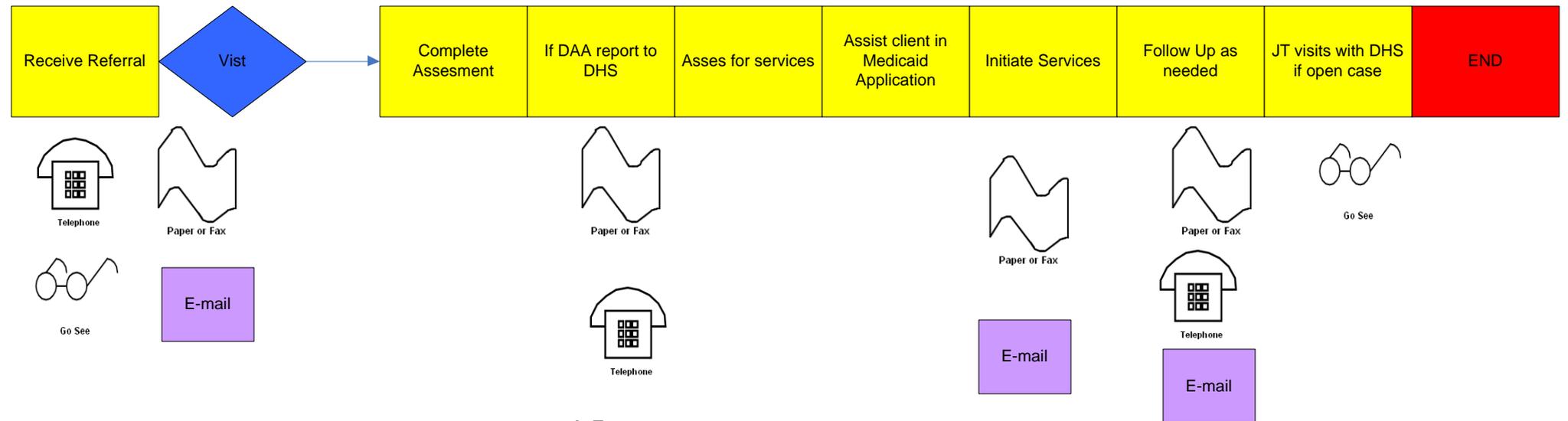
ADCR

Referral Sources:
 General Public
 Service Providers
 DHS
 IDA Facility LT
 AAA Case Manager
 AG's Office
 Financial Institutions
 Legal Aid
 Law Enforcement
 Consumers
 Family Members
 Clergy
 Neighbor's
 Doctors Office
 Hospitals
 Local Government Agencies
 Utility Companies



Elder Rights Specialist

Referral Sources:
 General Public
 Service Providers
 DHS
 IDA Facility LT
 AAA Case Manager
 AG's Office
 Financial Institutions
 Legal Aid
 Law Enforcement
 Consumers
 Family Members
 Clergy
 Neighbor's
 Doctors Office
 Hospitals
 Local Government Agencies
 Utility Companies



The following are the homework categories and the tasks to occur for implementation over the next year. It is anticipated these tasks will be resolved through cross agency collaboration without legislation:

Category	Implementation / Communication Plan
Code	Review & identify administrative rules and policies that impede elder safety / best interests Identify confidentiality statutes that restrict sharing of abuse information
Data	Centralized collection of research & data / Aging to maintain all stats
Process Improvement	Identify ways to strengthen DAPAC (include elder abuse) Determine whether DIA surveyors can make abuse determinations
Prosecution	AG represent on all appeals DIA develop process to send all intakes to county attorney Develop mediation forum for victims & families that are at risk but not at "system" level
Training	Implement cross-agency training on each agency's role within the abuse system Develop a standard, mandatory training curriculum for mandatory & permissive reporters with discipline specific information, including detection Educate & support judiciary regarding penalties, victims, & perpetrators Educate agencies on existence and availability of Lifespan Crisis Respite Educate DHS / AAA staff that POA is considered a "caretaker" Outreach to younger generation (40-50 y/o) for inclusion in training about adult abuse Develop a resources list / guide for county attorneys & law enforcement with local contacts and best practices Develop protocols for financial institutions on reporting abuse Utilize video conferencing for training, meetings (e.g. MDTs), etc. Look into implementation of neighborhood watch programs Educate LTCO/AAA and others on DHS adult foster care program (family life home)

LEAN - Prioritization of Recommendations to Task Force

ELDER ABUSE LAW	Votes
Create law that includes both DAA & EA but contains no distinction - creates new category for "abuse"	20
Create separate law	2
Amend existing code provisions to address EA criminal code, probate code, civil code	1
Add EA to DAA law	0
Create EA law with DAA provisions included	0
Look at other state laws	0

CENTRALIZATION	Votes
Centralized Adult Abuse Unit (specialized investigation, attorneys, social workers)	25
Identify one existing agency to handle all abuse	25
Centralized intake unit	10
Access to each other agency's database	5
Centralized database for all adult abuse information	4
Separate LTCO from Aging & allow to investigate	4
Create a "university" for elders & das	3
Implement toll free # answered by existing agency staff (DHS, IDA, DIA)	2
Hire a grant writer for EA issues jointly funded by sponsor	1
AAAs to have at least one elder abuse advocate	0
Give each agency authority to investigate any type of abuse	0
Create multi-agency unit (28E) (use existing agencies)	0
DIA investigate DAA / EA Abuse and DHS = Child Abuse	0
Ag prosecutes all abuse	0
Website to report abuse (child & adult)	0
SUBSTITUTE DECISION MAKER	
Reinstate OSDM at local level; has paid G/C	16
Reinstate OSDM centralized at state; has paid G/C	10
Adopt Uniform Durable POA Act	8
Reactivate 231E - OSDM	4
Use Community Based organizations as SDM	3
Expand the Guardianship / Conservatorship program	2
Create a Volunteer SDM program	0
CODE CHANGES	
Amend 235e to allow immediate registration on registry w/o delay (even with appeal)	13
Add financial exploitation to criminal code	9
Amend confidentiality provision	9
Remove notices in 235e	7
Authority to refer rejected cases to AAA or LTCO	7
Create enhanced penalties for EA & DAA including probate code	6
Amend code to allow central registry information to be included in all background checks	6
Create a state collection/restitution unit @ state level	5
Publicize part of registry	5
Recoup funds from Medicaid Fraud and put into Elder Abuse fund	5
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
Create a fund for emergency services	8
Create Safe Havens	6
Allow victims/families to obtain protective order	5
Expand amber alert to include elderly	4
Develop a criminal surcharge for elder abuse cases that help fund emergency services	2

Allow County Attorneys to get 235b orders w/o DHS orders	2
Allow DHS to obtain protective order	1
Professional/volunteer network to respond to emergencies	0
Consistent services available statewide	0
Establish a local response team for elder abuse cases	0
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	Votes
Make financial institutions mandatory reporters by statutory change	8
Alert system to alert other banks of financial exploitation	0
MDT	
Add Elders & Dependent Adults to Crime Victims Assistance Program	6
Create one "state" MDT	5
Create policy re: access to & utilization of MDT / specify makeup of MDTs	3
Each state agency must designate an employee to participate in MDT	3
Develop options for activating MDTs across state (by "urban", rural, AAA region, or other)	0
TRAINING & EDUCATION	
Require additional training on EA for mandatory reporters	2
Adopt a formal elder abuse prevention model - see Univ. California Irvine	2
Develop caretaker training	1
Develop a media partner	1
Put legislators in key positions - e.g. coalitions	1
Send staff to National Conferences	1
Utilize ACA/Market Navigators to gather, provide info, partners	0

Appendix B

Centralization Work Group Assignments

Members: Linda Hildreth, Cecilia Johnson, Polly Johnston, Laura Larkin, Diana Nicholls-Blomme, Sara Sander, and Jone Staley

2012 Report Recommendations

Recommendation #5 - Specialized Education and Training: Achieve consistency and effectiveness in addressing and preventing elder abuse through the development of a single training module to increase knowledge and distinguish between elder abuse and dependent adult abuse.

Recommendation #8 - Single Entry Point of Contact: Establish a single point of contact to discuss concerns of or report elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. The current system and laws for protecting older Iowans are fragmented and do not meet older Iowan's needs.

SF446 Section 50 Mandates:

(2)(1) Harmonization of the approach design (Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention (231.56A) & the Office of Substitute Decision Maker (231E) with the existing dependent adult abuse system pursuant to chapter 235B, including but not limited to standardized training...

(2)(2)(e) Promotion of public awareness of elder abuse and the services and support available to older individuals at risk of or experiencing elder abuse.

(2)(2)(c) The designation of a single point of contact to report elder abuse. The task force shall specifically address utilizing the aging and disability resource center network as the single point of contact.

Elder Abuse Definition and Law Work Group Assignments

Members: Anthony Carroll, Wendy Dishman, Josy Gittler, Craig Goettsch, Celene Gogerty, Kimberly Murphy, Janet O'Brien, Sharon Presnall (Dodie Bauman), Darrell Simmons, Ken Watkins, and Bob Welsh.

2012 Report Recommendations

Recommendation #1 Elder Abuse Definition and Law. Develop an elder abuse law which focuses on the unique needs of older lowans and creates definitions which protect older lowans who do not meet the dependent adult abuse criteria.

Recommendation #2 Safeguards from Financial Exploitation. Implement safeguards as outlined in the full report to ensure financial security against exploitation for older lowans. Current financial power of attorney and conservatorship laws do not adequately protect older lowans and their assets from perpetrators or from persons in a position of trust.

Recommendation #6 Laws Related to Powers of Attorney, Conservatorship Abuse, and Office of Substitute Decision Maker. Strengthen the laws pertaining to financial powers of attorney, and conservatorship. Power of attorney documents and conservatorships often serve as powerful tools for exploiters.

Recommendation #7. Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT). Review the MDT process and evaluate to ensure teams meet and that collaboration occurs to better serve older lowans who are victims of or are vulnerable to elder abuse. Currently, MDT's are allowed to exist under the Dependent Adult Abuse Law but are not statewide.

SF446 Section 50 Mandates:

(2)(1) Harmonization of the approach design with the existing dependent adult abuse system pursuant to chapter 235B, including but not limited to... collaboration between the elder abuse approach and the department of human services when a report of dependent adult abuse involves an older individual, and the membership of multidisciplinary teams.

(2)(2)(b) The definition of elder abuse to be used in the approach to elder abuse. The task force shall address continued use of the definition of "elder abuse" as specified under the federal Older Americans Act and utilized by the prevention of elder abuse program under section 231.56A, or shall provide a specific alternative definition.

(2)(2)(d) The means of addressing financial exploitation of older individuals, including those relating to powers of attorney and conservatorships as described in the 2012 task force report.

(2)(2)(f) Any specific changes in statute and rules necessary to achieve the recommendations of the task force.

OSDM /Services / Referrals Work Group Assignments

OSDM=Office of Substitute Decision Maker Iowa Code 231E

Members: Craig Block, Deanna Clingan-Fischer, Lori DeVries, Betty Grandquist, Robert King, Aubury Krueger, Larry Kudej, Bill Nutty, and Chantelle Smith

2012 Report Recommendations

Recommendation #3 Elder Abuse Intervention System: Implement a system focused on prevention, intervention, detection, and provision of services to maintain the health, welfare, safety, and resources of the older Iowan. The recommended system to implement and fund statewide is based upon the Elder Abuse Initiative demonstration projects previously funded through the Senior Living Trust Funds and piloted in 22 counties.

Recommendation #4 Allocation of Service Dollars. To fully implement an elder abuse intervention system, funding for services is needed to ensure protection and safety.

Recommendation #9 Safe Havens: Create specific locations to house a victim of elder abuse. A victim of elder abuse is generally removed from their home in an attempt to keep them safe from a perpetrator. If an older Iowan needs a safe place to stay there are no specific locations that can meet the unique needs of an older person.

SF446 Section 50 Mandates:

(2)(a) The design of the comprehensive approach to elder abuse prevention and intervention in the state utilizing the prevention of elder abuse program pursuant to section 231.56A and the office of substitute decision maker pursuant to chapter 231E.

(2)(2) Incorporation of the approach design into other existing and developing components of the system including the area agencies on aging, the mental health and disability services regions, local public health departments, the local offices of the department on human services, the courts, and other appropriate entities, to most effectively and efficiently address the needs of older individuals.